



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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Solid Majority of Americans Back President Bush on Education

President Bush is approaching the end of his first 100 days in office, and the American people are giving him high marks -- especially on education. A *Washington Post*-ABC News poll conducted between April 19-22 found that 60 percent of Americans approve of the way the President is handling the education issue. Similarly, a recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll found that fully 68 percent of Americans believe that President Bush will be able to improve our nation's education system.

Education is the top priority for the American people. President Bush and Republicans in Congress have responded with a bold plan that increases federal education funding by \$2.5 billion (5.9 percent) over the FY 2001 level *and* hold schools accountable for closing the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers. Unmistakably, a substantial majority of Americans support this plan.

Ordinary Americans are backing *No Child Left Behind* because it empowers them -- its emphasis on accountability will ensure that they know whether their children are learning; how their child's school stacks up against others; and whether their child is being taught by qualified public school teachers. In short, parents are realizing that H.R. 1 will give them the tools they need to decide what's best for their children's education.

Message of the Day

A clear majority of Americans stand behind President Bush's plan to hold schools accountable for increasing student achievement.

- ❑ *The American people have made it clear that education is their top priority. The No Child Left Behind bill responds boldly to their charge.*
- ❑ *H.R. 1 puts parents in charge -- and that is why they are responding favorably to it.*
- ❑ *A solid majority of Americans believe that our nation's education system is long overdue for change and improvement.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- A national poll conducted in March by Democrats found that Americans prefer Republicans over Democrats on the education by seven percentage points (45-38 percent).
- A bipartisan poll conducted by the Tarrance Group for the National Education Association in March found that 63 percent of Americans favor President Bush's approach to school choice.
- A recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll found that 60 percent of Americans say the public-school system is doing a poor or "only fair" job.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Holding students to high academic standards without regular testing is like expecting high returns from a business without being able to check its quarterly earnings reports." **Megan M. Farnsworth, Heritage Foundation, April 12, 2001**